

Polly Harvey, lead singer, songwriter, guitarist, violinist and front person of **PJ Harvey** has been compared to Patti Smith and a currently not-too-popular singer from Ireland. She's probably better than both of them, but that's not the point. What is the point is that *Dry* (Indigo/Island) is a startling and intriguing right in your face group of songs that not only crosses but transcends a mess of musical boundaries from tough rock to avant garde. It roars with an intensity that's not always easy to listen to, but difficult to ignore. Harvey breaks a whole of rules and constantly invents new ones on songs that twist and turn and punch and weave. To say that Harvey and her excellent band emotes is a severe understatement. They are desperately alive and pull enough musical changes on this album to keep you listening for a year, using familiar sounds only as a launching pad to take you somewhere else. Harvey sings like a poet and writes like one too. Their live shows have been likened to a religious experience.

PJ Harvey with David J.: Tues. Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. at the Chesnut Cabaret, 38th and Chestnut Sts., 382-1201.

--Peter Brown